

PATENT APPLICATION



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Yasunori WATANABE et al.

Group Art Unit: 2622

Application No.: 09/226,107

Examiner: J. Pokrzywa

Filed: January 7, 1999

Docket No.: 102491

For: MULTI-FUNCTIONAL DEVICE HAVING VERTICALLY ARRANGED SCANNER
AND PRINTER SELECTIONS

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

RECEIVED

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

JUN 08 2004

Technology Center 2600

Sir:

In reply to the December 29, 2003 Office Action, reconsideration of the rejection and objections is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

Claims 1-29 are pending in this application. The Office Action states that claims 23-29 are allowed and claims 12-20 recite allowable subject matter.

I. The Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

A. Claim rejections 35 U.S.C. §102

The Office Action rejects claims 1-5, 7, 21 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being unpatentable over Takano et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,078,765). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

It is respectfully submitted that Takano does not constitute "prior art". Specifically, the priority of the present application is based on Japanese patent application numbers 10-002585 (JP '2585) which has a filing date of January 8, 1998, and 10-166507 (JP '166507) which has

a filing date of June 15, 1998 which predate the October 30, 1998 effective filing date of Takano. Accurate English-language translations of the priority documents JP '2585 and JP '166507 are attached to perfect the claim to foreign priority.

Thus, all of the prior art rejections are moot.

For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 21 and 22 are allowable over the applied references. Dependent claims 2-5 and 7 are likewise patentable over the applied references for at least the reasons discussed above as well as for the additional features they recite.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

B. Claim rejections 35 U.S.C. §103

The Office Action rejects claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Takano in view of Saito (U.S. Patent No. 5,826,133). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, Takano does not constitute "prior art". Specifically, the dates of priority documents JP '2585 and JP '166507 of this application (January 8, 1998 and June 15, 1998) predate the October 29, 1998 effective prior art date of Takano.

Thus this prior art rejection is moot.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-29 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Registration No. 27,075

David E. Brown
Registration No. 51,091

JAO:DEB/ldg

Date: June 1, 2004

Enclosures:

Petition for Extension of Time
English language translations of
Japanese Patent Numbers 10-002585 and 10-166507

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